

tracted old age, made up his mind to die on a certain day; but to oblige his sister, he postponed his departure until three feasts of Ceres were over. He supported nature on a pot of honey to the appointed hour, and then expired by arrangement. Jerome Cardan, a celebrated Italian physician, starved himself gradually, and calculated with such mathematical nicety, as to hit the very day and hour foretold. When Rabelais was dying, the Cardinal sent a page to inquire how he was. Rabelais joked with the envoy until he found his strength declining, and his last moments approach. He then said: "Tell his eminence the state in which you left me. I am going to inquire into a great possibility. It is to be a

can. Draw the curtain; the farce is over." When the famous Count de Gramont was reported to be in extremity, Louis the King, Louis XIV., being told of his total want of religious feeling, which shocked him not a little, sent the Marquis de Dangrau to beg of him, for the credit of the court, to die like a good Christian. He was scarcely able to speak, but turning round to the countess, who had always been remarkable for her piety, he said, with a smile, "Countess: take care, or Dangrau will fetch from you the credit of my conversion."

A LUDICROUS SCENE.—About 3 o'clock on Wednesday last, about 3 o'clock

Wednesday morning officer Watkins of the Fifth Ward, heard a rattle sprung in the vicinity of Fifth and Spruce streets and proceeding to the scene, was somewhat surprised to meet a man in an entirely nude state, proceeding up the latter street, making a terrible noise. The officer was under the impression that the man was laboring under the mania of a madman, but advancing towards him discovered that he was pursuing a black fellow. The officer then gave chase after the pursued man, and after a long chase succeeded in bringing the object of pursuit to in the vicinity of Washington square, catching him by the leg as he was getting over a fence. After securing the prisoner who proved to be Sammie

Thomas, the officer, convulsed with laughter at seeing the sorry plight made by the nude man, in his pursuit of the prisoner, met the gent, and succeeded in borrowing an overcoat from another officer, with which he was covered until he could get home and procure his clothes. At the hearing before Alder man Moore, at 7 o'clock, the testimony of the nude man was taken, which showed that he was a barkeeper at the cellar corner of Fifth and Spruce streets at which place he slept. He was awakened by a singular noise and the fact of the place having been robbed a short time ago, induced him to endeavor to catch the burglar. Whether he stripped himself for this purpose or slept enrobed

shaded, defendant did not say; but it is certain that when he emerged into the street from a side door, in pursuit of the robber, he was in a nude state. Thomas was committed in default of \$1,500 bail to answer the charge of attempted burglary, by boring a number of sugar holes in the door.—*Phila. Sun.*

EXTRAORDINARY SPEED.—Anthony D. Thompson, Conductor on the New York & Erie Railroad, relates to us the following:

On Wednesday last the Dunkirk Express, drawn by engine 159 with Mr. Thompson, as Conductor, and John Hall as Engineer, ran from Susquehanna

Northville, a distance of 112 miles, in precisely three hours and forty-four minutes; or, deducting 36 minutes for stoppages, (20 of which were consumed at the bridge) in three hours and eight minutes running time! Allowing also, for time lost in approaching and departing from stations, and the speed of the train could not have been less than a mile a minute, or 60 miles an hour. If that rate of speed over an equal extent of road, had ever been attained before in this country, we certainly never heard of it. The passengers on the train were of course perfectly delighted, and on arriving at Northville a deputation of their number waited upon the Conductor and Engineer, and solicited them, in very strong terms

to run the train through to Dunkirk, which, of course, they were obliged to decline.—*Osvego Gazette*.

If the train had met with an accident and run off the track, those passengers would have been the first to hold a meeting and resolve to have the Conductor changed.

THE DESERET ALPHABET—Our readers are aware that the Mormons have adopted an alphabet very similar to that known as the phonetic alphabet, by which the number of letters is greatly reduced and a uniform sound always given to the same character. It would appear from the following extract from Bro. Phelps' letter to the News that a commencement

has been made towards introducing the new alphabet in the schools:—Elder John B. Milner is teaching Deseret alphabet with considerable success, having sixty scholars at Lehi, twenty-eight at American Fork, twenty-five at Mountainview, twenty-eight at Pleasant Grove, twenty-two at Provo, first ward, who are making good progress.” Such an alphabet will be of great assistance in enabling the many foreigners among the Mormons to acquire the English language.

of close texture, such as doeskin, or what is commonly used for pantaloons. It will ignite if the composition is almost as soft as putty; woollen cloth is the best to use in that case, as it causes little friction, and is a good non-conductor of heat.

☞ If we wish to shine in any particular character, we must never affect that character.